

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:HEMEINHEIT/LLROCKE:EVC
APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY
EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS
EA/J:HCOCHRAN (DRAFT)
EA/RA:MEILAND (DRAFT)
S/NM:RSLUTZ (DRAFT)
NSC:DSHAMBAUGH (INFO)
S/S:

-----107210 250500Z /14

R 242048Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132442

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, SNAR, ENGR, ETRD, TH

SUBJECT:VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THAILAND: FOLLOW-UP

1. FOLLOWING FOR EMB BACKGROUND AND ACTION WHERE APPROPRIATE IS LIST OF ISSUES DISCUSSED BY VICE PRESIDENT IN THAILAND WHICH WE BELIEVE REQUIRE FOLLOW-UP IN WASHINGTON OR BANGKOK. REFUGEES WILL BE DISCUSSED IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.

2. FMS: ADDITIONAL FMS CREDITS ARE AN IMPORTANT BUT DIFFICULT ISSUE. THE PROSPECTS FOR ANY INCREASE IN THE FY 79 TOTAL ARE REMOTE AS ALL FMS HAS BEEN ALLOCATED. IN FACT, IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME ALLOCATIONS WILL BE DECREASED. WE WILL SEEK TO KEEP THAILAND HIGH ON THE
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PRIORITY LIST NEXT YEAR, BUT FMS OVERALL TOTALS WORLDWIDE ARE DECREASING AND THERE ARE OTHER PRIORITY CLAIMANTS.

-- THE THAI REQUEST FOR SOFTER TERMS, BETTER PRICES AND SHORTER DELIVERY TIMES FOR FMS PURCHASES WILL BE DISCUSSED WITHIN DEPARTMENT AND WITH DOD. THAILAND'S RELATIVELY STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION AND THE NECESSITY TO WORK WITHIN

THE GENERAL WORLDWIDE CRITERIA AND SYSTEM FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE MAKES IT UNLIKELY THAT MUCH IMPROVEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED.

-- SOME REPORTING INDICATED THAT KRIANGSAK CAME AWAY FROM THE VISIT BELIEVING THAT VICE PRESIDENT MADE A COMMITMENT TO FACILITATE FMS TO THAILAND SUFFICIENT TO MAKE IT UNNECESSARY FOR THAILAND TO LOOK FOR ALTERNATE SOURCES OF SUPPLY. EMB SHOULD ENSURE THAT USG POLICY ON ARMS TRANSFERS IS CLEAR TO THAI AND KNOCK DOWN ANY FALSE EXPECTATIONS THAT THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE ANYTHING AND ALL THAT THAILAND WANTS UNDER FMS. IN PREVIOUS EMBASSY EXPLANATIONS AND IN THE VP TALKS, THAI HAVE BEEN TOLD OUR CAPABILITIES ARE LIMITED BUT WE WILL TRY TO HELP WITH ESSENTIAL NEEDS.

B. F-5 SQUADRON: P&B DATA HAS BEEN SENT TO EMB FOR RTG. ASSUME RT; WILL REQUEST LOA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT AGREEMENT CAN BE CONCLUDED IN TIME TO MEET 1980 DELIVERY DATE.

C. ICS: DEPT IS UNCLEAR OVER WHAT DEFENSE MINISTER LEK MEANT WHEN HE ASKED FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE WITH THE INTEGRATED COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (ICS). EMB SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY THIS. IS IT POSSIBLE HE MEANT TO REFER TO AMMUNITION IN THAILAND (AIT)? IF SO, USG POSITION REMAINS CONFIDENTIAL

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AS STATED ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS.

D. KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO U.S.: SINCE INVITATION IS FOR 1979, NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED AT THE PRESENT TIME.

E. NARCOTICS:

-- EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH RTG ON DEVELOPMENT OF MAE CHAEM WATERSHED PROJECT. DEPT IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AS SOON AS THAI ARE READY AND SUBMIT FIRM PROPOSAL.

-- ALTHOUGH THE U.S. SIDE GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO THAI REQUEST FOR HELICOPTERS AT THIS TIME, EMB SHOULD EXAMINE ANY THAI FOLLOW-ON PROPOSAL CAREFULLY AND SEND RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEPT. THE THAI NEED TO DEMONSTRATE REAL NEED FOR MORE HELICOPTERS, INCLUDING ABILITY TO MAINTAIN AND UTILIZE TO THE MAXIMUM THE SEVEN ALREADY PROVIDED.

F. ENERGY: IN RESPONSE TO INDUSTRY MINISTER KASEM'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SOLAR/WIND STUDIES, THE VICE PRESIDENT INDICATED A TEAM WOULD BE SENT TO EXPLORE

POSSIBILITIES. INTERAGENCY DISCUSSION (DOE, AID, OES, EA/TIMBS) OF THIS TEAM'S TERMS OF REFERENCE BEGIN MAY 25 IN WASHINGTON. DETAILS WILL FOLLOW AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

G- TRADE DEFICIT: PM KRIANGSAK SUGGESTED U.S. SHOULD PRESS JAPAN HARDER TO REDUCE ITS TRADE DEFICIT. VICE PRESIDENT INDICATED INTEREST IN RECEIVING ANY SPECIFIC THAI RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS OR ON JAPANESE SIDE. USG HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN PRESSING THE GOJ HARD FOR A YEAR TO PROVIDE GREATER TRADE AND AID BENEFITS TO SEASIA. THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TANGIBLE RESULTS OF BENEFIT TO RTG.
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H. ASEAN: STATE 124848 DESCRIBES OUR POSITION ON SECOND US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING.

I. TIN: WALT LENAHAAN, EB/ISM, WILL LEAD U.S. DELEGATION TO INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL ECONOMIC AND PRICE REVIEW PANEL MEETING IN BANGKOK JUNE 12-17 AND EXPECTS HOLD BILATERAL TALKS WITH RTG ON OUR SURPLUS TIN DISPOSAL POLICY.

J. JAPANESE AID: GOJ HAS INFORMED US THAT AFTER MAY 15 ITS AID WOULD BE UNTIED IN PRINCIPLE. DOES RTG HAVE ANY SPECIFIC THOUGHTS ON THIS ISSUE?

2. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS AND ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS REGARDING FOLLOW-UP ARE WELCOME. CHRISTOPHER

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